IN THE DRAWINGS

Replacement drawing sheets are attached to this paper. Marked up drawings are also attached to show changes made. The three separate figures originally labeled as Figure 3 are now individually labeled as Figures 3A, 3B, and 3C. In addition, Figures 2A and 2B are amended to show proper element numerals in accordance with the written description and Figure 2C.

REMARKS

We believe that the amendments and remarks in this paper are a bona fide attempt to advance prosecution of this application by responding to the Examiner's objections and rejections in the Office Action.

Amendments to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings because Fig. 3, as filed, included three separate figures. Applicants have amended Fig. 3 so that the separate figures are now labeled Fig. 3A, 3B, and 3C.

Applicants have also amended Figs. 2A and 2B to show proper reference numerals used in the written description.

Applicants include replacement drawing sheets with this paper in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d). No new matter is added.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicants have amended paragraph 0013 (as published) of the specification to indicate that the separate figures originally filed as Fig. 3 are now labeled Figs. 3A, 3B, and 3C. No new matter is added.

Amendments to the Claims

This paper amends claims 1-4, cancels claims 5-8, and adds new claims 9-24. Support for the amended and new claims is found, e.g., in Figs. 2A, 2B, 2C, 4, and 5, and in the associated text. Claims have been rewritten to comply with the preamble, transition phrase, and

body independent claim format the Examiner requested. The term "electronic speed controller" has been spelled out.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,240,787 ("Goldschmidt et al."). We believe that our amendments render moot this rejection.

Goldschmidt et al. does not disclose or suggest each and every element of our amended independent method claim 1. For example, Goldschmidt et al. discloses only one group of battery cells A, B, C, and D positioned in a battery casing (Goldschmidt et al., col. 5 lines 5-6), whereas our claim 1 recites both a "first group of battery cells" and a "second group of battery cells". Claim 1 recites that the battery cells in the first and second groups are connected with "a permanent electrical connection", but the cells in Goldschmidt et al. are removable (Goldschmidt et al., col. 5, lines 10-11). Claim 1 recites "standard" electrical connectors. In contrast, Goldschmidt et al. describes only simple electrical contacts, such as tab connections (Goldschmidt et al., col. 2, line 11), springs (Goldschmidt et al., col. 6 lines 46 and 53), terminals (Goldschmidt et al., col. 6 lines 49 and 56), or contact rivets (Goldschmidt et al., col. 6 line 62). As recited in our claim 1, the standard connectors allow a removable electrical coupling. That is, such connectors provide both an electrical and mechanical coupling, and the mechanical coupling is not permanent but removable to facilitate the quick interconnection of battery groups. Finally, Goldschmidt et al. does not disclose or suggest an electronic speed controller coupled to a radio controlled model motor.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldschmidt et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,686,811 ("Bushong et al.). The Examiner also rejected claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldschmidt et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,167 ("Schwartz et al.").

We believe that the combinations of Goldschmidt et al. and Bushong et al. and of Goldschmidt et al. and Schwartz et al. do not disclose or suggest all elements in independent claim 1 since neither Bushong et al. nor Schwartz et al. show the elements missing from Goldschmidt et al. Neither Bushong et al. nor Schwartz et al. show two groups of battery cells having cells that are securely held together. Neither Bushong et al. nor Schwartz et al. positively disclose permanent electrical connection among battery cells in a group. Neither reference discloses the use of standard electrical connectors to removably couple the battery groups to an electronic speed controller for a radio controlled model motor.

Patentability of New Claims

We believe that for at least the reasons above, new independent claims 9 and 16 as well as new dependent claims 10-15 and 17-24 are patentable over Goldschmidt et al., Bushong et al., and Schwartz et al. individually or in combination. Independent claims 9 and 16 generally recite elements similar to amended claim 1.

We further believe it is worthy to note that our claims are directed to use in radio controlled models. In such models, model aircraft for example, minimizing overall weight and size are important considerations. We therefore believe that heavy, bulky battery holders such as the one in Goldschmidt et al. are of no practical use in radio controlled models.

Summary

Claims 1-4 and 9-24 are now pending. We respectfully request the Examiner allow all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or would like to discuss a proposed action that would speed prosecution of this application, we invite him to contact Ted Cooper at 408-955-5480.

Ted J. Cooper
Applicant

Michael R. Frederick
Applicant

ATTACHMENT - CORRECTED DRAWINGS

Two replacement and two marked-up drawing sheets with changes to originally filed Figures 2A, 2B, and 3 follow this page.

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ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWINGS

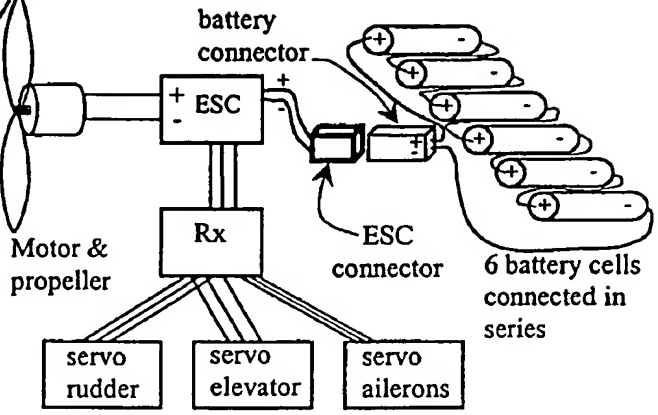

Fig. 1

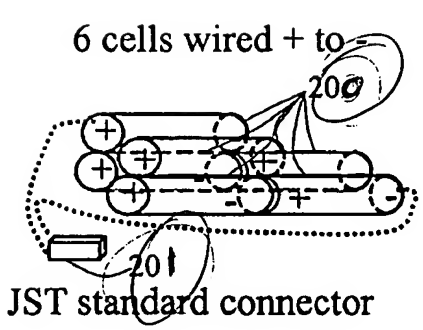

Fig. 2A

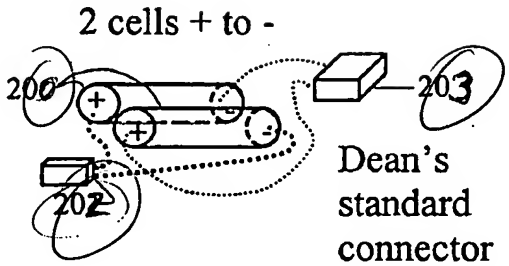

Fig. 2B

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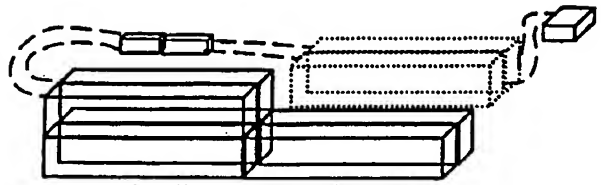
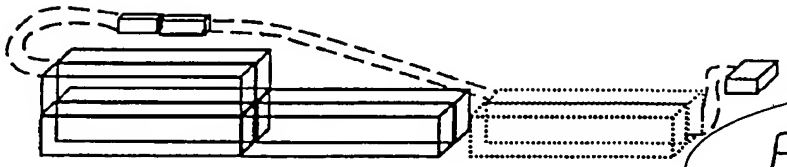
ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWINGS



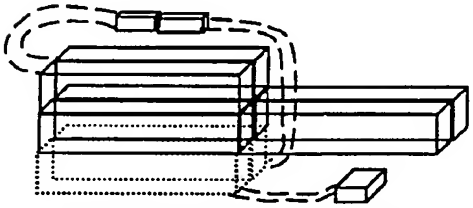
8 cell "Brick" configuration 300

Fig. 3A



8 cell "long line" configuration 301

Fig. 3B



8 cell "balance forward" configuration 302

Fig. 3C

~~Fig. 3~~

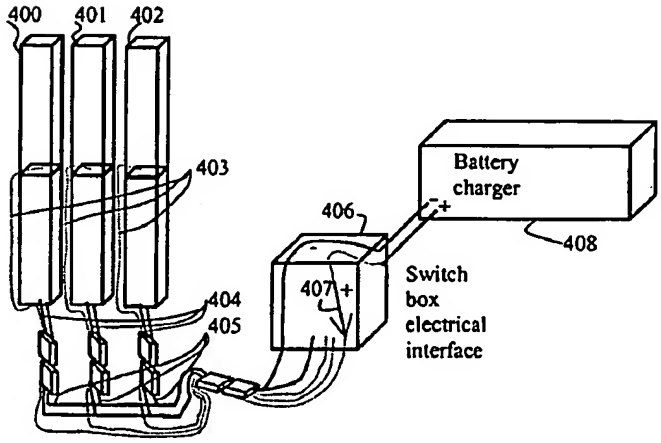


Fig. 4